Alaska Measures of Progress (AMP) Assessment Information Document

*The purpose of this document is to provide regular updates to Alaskan educators and members of the public about the implementation of the new Alaska assessment for grades 3-10, Alaska Measures of Progress (AMP). New information will be **bolded** and the date of the document will be in both the title and the footer as well as summarized on the last page. Contact Elizabeth.davis@alaska.gov for more information or visit www.akassessments.org.*

Components of the Alaska Measures of Progress (AMP) Assessment Program

Technology Practice Test: The practice test will be available in September 2014. The focus of the practice test is to give students experience with the online assessment technology. There will be three practice tests: grades 3-5, grades 6-8, and grades 9-10. Each practice test will have traditional item types, such as multiple choice, and items that utilize technology-enhanced items (TE's), such as dropdown menus or drawing lines. Students, teachers, and members of the community have unlimited access to the practice test.

Testlets, *Assessments for Learning*: The testlets are short, 8-10 item tests available to teachers to use to inform their instruction. These optional, no-stakes assessment tools are **designed to give teachers information on student progress on individual standards. Teachers select which testlets to give to students and when to administer them.** The testlets will be available beginning in January 2015. **Student and teacher rosters must be uploaded into the KITE Client for teachers to access the Testlets.**

Interim Benchmark Assessment: The optional interim assessment will be available to districts beginning in fall 2015. The purpose of the interim assessment is to provide information on students' progress on grade-level standards in English language arts and math. The assessments are given twice per year, in fall and winter. These assessments will be adaptive and will be scored on the same vertical scale as the summative assessment, and will be designed to meet the requirements for the educator evaluation regulations.

Summative Assessment: The summative assessment will have two subtests, English language arts and mathematics. **The summative assessments will have between 70-75 questions per content area (ELA & math) delivered in blocks. Each assessment will start with a block of 25 items, followed by three blocks of 15 items.** Although the assessment is not timed, each subtest will take most students between 90-120 minutes.

The summative assessment will be rolled out in two phases.

- The assessment will be fixed form for the first two years. After two years, Alaska will have enough items to have an adaptive assessment; adaptive assessments adjust in difficulty based on student performance, unlike fixed form assessments. Adaptive assessments provide greater score precision and provide an assessment experience for students that is "a good fit."
- Items that require keyboarding (constructed response short answer and essay items) and listening items will also be phased in over the next two years.

Scoring: Students will receive scores from 1-4, with 1 being the lowest score and 4 being the highest. The score of 3 is the "meets standard" score. Score descriptions, **called Achievement Level Descriptors (ALDs), are currently being drafted and will be reviewed by Alaskan educators on September 17, 2014.**

Technology: Most students will take the computer-based assessment. EED and the Achievement & Assessment Institute (AAI) will work with schools in the summer and fall of 2014 to assist them in getting ready for the online delivery. AMP is administered using a test delivery engine called KITE. It can be installed on desktops, laptops, and tablets. **An updated version of KITE will be released August 1, 2014; EED strongly recommends that districts download the KITE Client on all district devices between August 4-31.** Once the KITE Client is open all other applications on the device are inaccessible, making the test administration secure. **An app for using KITE more efficiently on iPads will be release in September.**

Support for Computer-based Administration of AMP: AAI's Technology Support Team will work with districts that may have technological capacity challenges. Districts can contact the help desk at amp_support@ku.edu or by calling, toll free, 855-277-9752. Additionally, AAI is hiring Alaskan technology liaisons who will provide additional virtual and on-site assistance to districts and schools.

Local Caching System: AMP utilizes a Local Caching System (LCS). An LCS is an application that is loaded onto a laptop or desktop; the LCS enables testing to continue if there is minimal bandwidth. It can be used at the district, school, or classroom level.

Waiver from Computer-based Administration of AMP: <u>All schools will be required to test their students online in spring 2015 unless there is substantial evidence that online testing is not possible due to lack of technological resources or infrastructure.</u> **EED, along with the Achievement & Assessment Institute, will provide schools with technological support to resolve challenges. Districts that are concerned about the ability of a school to administer the computer-based assessment due to a lack of technological capacity must submit a Waiver from Computer-based Administration. Once submitted, the site/district will work with AAI to resolve challenges. If a school is determined to be unable to administer the tests online in 2015, EED will approve the waiver and the school will order paper tests. EED will work with the district to develop a plan to begin computer-based testing within three years. Waivers are site-based, not district-wide. Districts must initiate the waiver process in August or early September. Waivers will be approved no later than October 31, 2014.**

Information for families and communities: EED is working with AAI to develop a variety of materials and other methods to communicate to students, families, and communities about the new assessment. Brochures for educators and for families will be mailed to schools in August and will also be available on the EED website under the yellow Parents & Community star.

Opportunities for Educator Involvement: 30 educators participated in two passage writing workshops this summer, held in partnership with UAF and UAS. Passages written during these workshops will be used for the assessment, and some writers will be commissioned to write additional

passages. More workshops are planned for the summer of 2015. In addition, Alaskan educators reviewed the Technology Practice Test in July and provided valuable feedback to AAI for bias and sensitivity as well as user experience.

Recruitment for Item Reviewers: EED is currently recruiting Alaskan educators to participate in reviewing ELA passages and items and math items for content relevancy, alignment, sensitivity, and bias. Reviews will occur remotely via group webinar or conference call, and independent, online work. Our hope is that remote reviews will remove the burden of leaving the classroom and allow a greater number of rural and remote educators to participate. Participants may review items at a convenient time within the scheduled window. Reviewers who are selected, and complete their review assignments, will be paid a stipend and are eligible for a free non-academic credit from EED ($50 value). To apply complete the application at http://bit.ly/amp_reviews_2014. **Reviews are currently scheduled for: August 7 – 13, August 27 – September 2, October 8 – 14, and November 18 – 24.**

ACRONYMS	
AAI	Achievement & Assessment Institute
ALD	Achievement Level Descriptor
AMP	Alaska Measures of Progress
CBA	Computer-based Assessment
LCS	Local Caching System
TE	Technology-Enhanced item
TPT	Technology Practice Test
GLOSSARY	
Achievement Level Descriptors	Achievement level descriptors (ALDs) are a means of describing performance on a standardized test in terms of levels or categories of performance.
Adaptive Assessment	Assessments adjust in difficulty based on student performance, unlike fixed form assessments. Adaptive assessments provide greater score precision and provide an assessment experience for students that is "a good fit."
Constructed Response Item	Items that require students to keyboard an answer, such as a short answer or essay question.
Fixed Form Assessment	A static assessment that does not adjust to student performance during testing.
Item (test item)	The question and answer choices.
KITE	Test Delivery Engine for the AMP assessments
Technology Enhanced Item (TE)	
Technology Practice Test	Short tests focused on providing students with experience in the technology-enhanced item types and the computer-based testing experience.

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The AMP Assessment Window: In 2015, the window will be five weeks long: Monday, March 30 – Friday, May 1. Unlike the paper/pencil SBAs, not all students in a district will take the computer-based assessment on the same days.

The following chart shows the designated testing weeks for each grade level. Two options are given. Option A is designed to accommodate larger elementary/middle/high schools with single-grade classrooms; option B is designed to accommodate smaller K-12 schools. **However, districts are not restricted to either option; districts may choose to test students earlier than the designated weeks, but may not delay testing for grades beyond the "finish week" and may not test earlier than March 30, 2015. For example, a school may test grades 3-8 in week 1. A school may not test grade 3 after week 2. EED strongly recommends districts test all students as early as possible within the window. Examples for testing schedules are being developed and will be available in the fall of 2014.**

	AMP Option A		AMP Option B
Week 1 March 30-April 3	Begin Grade 3, Grade 7		
Week 2 April 6-10	Begin Grade 4, Grade 8	Finish Grade 3, Grade 7	Begin and finish Grade 3,4,7,8
Week 3 April 13-17	Begin Grade 5, Grade 9	Finish Grade 4, Grade 8	Begin and finish Grades 5,6,9,10
Week 4 April 20-24	Begin Grade 6, Grade 10	Finish Grade 5, Grade 9	
Week 5 April 27-May 1		Finish Grade 6, Grade 10	

Science: The science test for grades 4, 8, and 10 is not changing at this time. The paper/pencil science assessment in 2015 will continue to be managed by Data Recognition Corporation (DRC). Districts must administer the science test March 30 – April 10, 2015. All students of the same grade level must take the science assessment on the same day. EED is currently determining the best course of action for the Alaska science assessment after 2015.

AMP paper/pencil: Approved schools will administer the paper/pencil AMP on district-designated days within April 13-24, 2015**. If more than one school in a district is approved for paper/pencil administration, they <u>must</u> administer the assessment on the same two days. Students must take the same portions of the assessment on the same day (e.g., all students must take the first math section on the same day).**
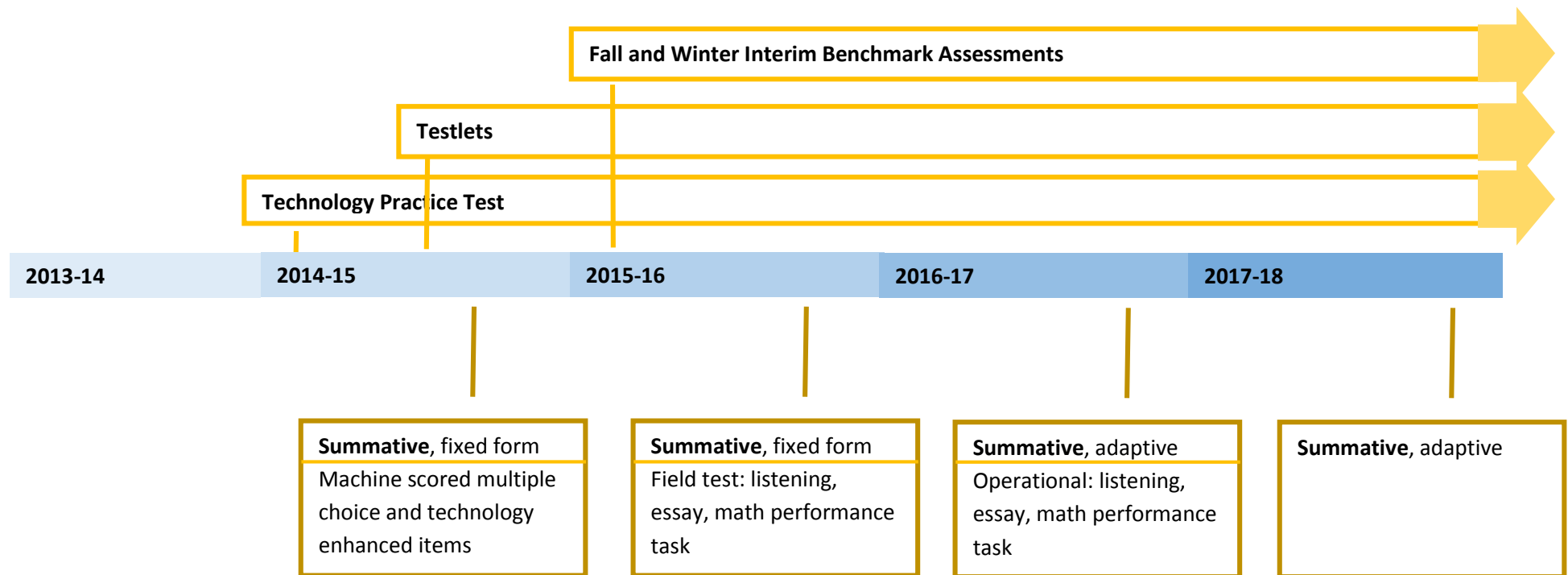
	Science paper/pencil grades 4,8,10	*AMP paper/pencil Approved schools only*
Week 1 March 30-April 3	Districts designate one testing day per grade in this window (all three grades may test on the same day).	
Week 2 April 6-10		
Week 3 April 13-17		*Approved schools will designate 2 testing days for all students within this window.*
Week 4 April 20-24		
Week 5 April 27-May 1		

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Assessment Activities Timeline (2014-15)

- July 2014: Practice Test item remote-review (bias and sensitivity)
- Summer & Fall 2014: Item reviews with Alaskan Educators begin; ongoing
- August 2014: AMP rollout activities begin; ongoing through year
- September 2014: Technology Practice Test available; will be available throughout year
- September 17: Achievement Level Descriptor Review Meeting
- November 10-11: District Test Coordinator Training
- January 2015: Testlets available
- March 30 – May 1 2015: AMP online test window
- July 7- 10, 2015: Standard Setting Meeting for 2015 assessment

Assessment Development Timeline

Fall and Winter Interim Benchmark Assessments

Testlets

Technology Practice Test

2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18

Summative, fixed form
Machine scored multiple choice and technology enhanced items

Summative, fixed form
Field test: listening, essay, math performance task

Summative, adaptive
Operational: listening, essay, math performance task

Summative, adaptive

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7/18/14 UPDATES SUMMARY

1. The name for the practice has been updated to Technology Practice Test to accurately represent the purpose and design of this tool.
2. Testlets, *Assessments for Learning*: clarified that they are written by standard; teacher and student rosters must be uploaded into KITE Client for teachers to access Testlets.
3. The summative assessments will have between 70-75 questions per content area (ELA & math) delivered in blocks. Each assessment will start with a block of 25 items, followed by three blocks of 15 items.
4. Achievement Level Descriptor review will be held September 17, 2014 in Anchorage.
5. KITE Client update August 1, 2014. Districts should download onto all district devices between August 4-31, 2014.
6. iPad app released in September.
7. Districts can contact the help desk at amp_support@ku.edu or by calling, toll free, 855-277-9752.
8. Waiver from Computer-based Administration of AMP: All schools will be required to test their students online in spring 2015 unless there is substantial evidence that online testing is not possible due to lack of technological resources or infrastructure. EED, along with the Achievement & Assessment Institute, will provide schools with technological support to resolve challenges. Districts that are concerned about the ability of a school to administer the computer-based assessment due to a lack of technological capacity must submit a Waiver from Computer-based Administration. Once submitted, the site/district will work with AAI to resolve challenges. If a school is determined to be unable to administer the tests online in 2015, EED will approve the waiver and the school will order paper tests. EED will work with the district to develop a plan to begin computer-based testing within three years. Waivers are site-based, not district-wide. Districts must initiate the waiver process in August or early September. Waivers will be approved no later than October 31, 2014.
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10. Item Reviews: EED is currently recruiting Alaskan educators to participate in reviewing ELA passages and items and math items for content relevancy, alignment, sensitivity, and bias. Reviews will occur remotely via group webinar or conference call and independent, online work. Our hope is that remote reviews will remove the burden of leaving the classroom and allow a greater number of rural and remote educators to participate. Participants may review items at a convenient time within the scheduled window. Reviewers who are selected, and complete their review assignments, will be paid a stipend and are eligible for a free non-academic credit from EED ($50 value). To apply complete the application at http://bit.ly/amp_reviews_2014. Reviews are currently scheduled for: August 7 – 13, August 27 – September 2, October 8 – 14, and November 18 – 24.
11. Clarification on testing window schedule: However, districts are not restricted to either option; districts may choose to test students earlier than the designated weeks, but may not delay testing for grades beyond the "finish week" and may not test earlier than March 30, 2015. For example, a school may test grades 3-8 in week 1. A school may not test grade 3 after week 2. EED strongly recommends districts test all students as early as possible within the window. Examples for testing schedules are being developed and will be available in the fall of 2014.
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